

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03095 102341Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W
-----102343Z 000395 /64/20

R 090833Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9081
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3095

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE FROM UDORN 0033
9 FEB REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QTEE.O. 11652:
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, TH, LA
SUBJECT: THAI/LAO BORDER RELATIONS AT NONG KHAI

REF: BANGKOK 2955

1. STATUS OF NONG KHAI BORDER POINT - REPORT APPEARING
IN BANGKOK POST FEBRUARY 7 THAT LPDR HAS ORDERED CLOSURE OF
BORDER WITH THAILAND IS UNFOUNDED. CONREP VISITED NONG KHAI
BORDER POINT FE 6 AND 7, AND OBSERVED BORDER TO BE OPEN FOR
BUSINESS AS USUAL. DEPUTY IMMIGRATION CHIEF AT NONG KHAI MET
WITH CONREP FEB 7 AND CONFIRMED THIS OBSERVATION, ADDING
THAT HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY RECENT ORDER BY LAO OFFICIALS TO
SEAL BORDER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03095 102341Z

2. STATUS OF DAN TAENG AND DAN TOI ISLANDS - THA BO
DISTRICT OFFICIALS (NONG KHAI PROVINCE) INFORMED CONREP
FEBRUARY 7 THAT TWO ISLANDS HAVE NOT RPT. NOT BEEN SEIZED BY
PATHET LAO (PL) TROOPS NOR HAVE VILLAGERS ABANDONED THEM,
AS WAS REPORTED IN BANGKOK POST FEB 7. ACCORDING TO DISTRICT
OFFICIALS, SEVERAL PL SOLDIERS IN SMALL BOAT BRIEFLY
LANDED ON ONE OF ISLANDS AFTERNOON FEB 6, ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL

THAI VILLAGERS, TOLD THEM ISLAND BELONGED TO LAOS, AND THEN RETURNED TO LAO SIDE OF MEKONG.

3. OFFICIALS STATED FURTHER THAT SOME OF VILLAGERS, WHO GROW TOBACCO ON ISLANDS (HARDLY MORE THAN MUDFLATS) AS LEVEL OF MEKONG RECEDES DURING DRY SEASON; APPARENTLY PANICKED AFTER ENCOUNTER WITH PL SOLDIERS AND SPREAD STORY THAT PL WERE "INVADING" ISLAND. HOWEVER, NEARLY ALL VILLAGERS HAVE REMAINED ON ISLANDS AND ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR CULTIVATION AS USUAL.

4. NEVERTHELESS, NONG KHAI PROVINCE AUTHORITIES ARE NOT LETTING INCIDENT PASS UNHEEDED. CONREP OBSERVED TWO MROU (MEKONG RIVER OPERATIONS UNIT) PATROL BOATS CRUISING IN VICINITY OF ISLANDS FEB 7. LOCAL MROU COMMANDER HAS REPORTEDLY ASKED TWO ADDITIONAL BOATS BE SENT HIS COMMAND AS RESERVE FORCE IN EVENT CLASH WITH PL SHOULD TAKE PLACE. DISTRICT OFFICIALS TOLD CONREP THAT BPP PLATOON HAS ALSO BEEN SENT TO THA BO TO CONDUCT LAND PATROLS ALONG MEKONG RIVER BAND ADJACENT TO ISLANDS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, SITUATION AT THA BO APPEARS COMPLETELY NORMAL.

5. WE NOTE FROM BANGKOK PAPERS FEB 8, RECEIVED THIS AFTER-NOON, THAT RTN HAS ISSUED STATEMENT THAT, BASED ON THEIR INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT, PL SOLDIERS, DESPITE APPEARANCES, NEVER ACTUALLY LANDED ON ISLANDS. RTN STATEMENT CONFLICTS WITH WHAT LOCAL OFFICIALS INFORMED CONREP BUT COULD WELL BE MORE ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 03095 102341Z

6. COMMENT: BANGKOK PRESS ACCOUNTS REGARDING EVENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE ILLUSTRATE STANDARD PRACTICE OF EDITORS IN CAPITAL CITY TO RUSH INTO PRINT WITH REPORTS FROM LOCAL STRINGERS IN NORTHEAST THAT ARE OFTEN INACCURATE AND SOMETIMES TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. PRESSURE OF COMPETITION AND POOR COMMUNICATIONS MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO VERIFY REPORTS BEFORE PUBLISHING THEM. HOWEVER, FEATURING UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ON FRONT PAGE UNDER PROMINENT HEADLINES HARDLY SEEMS NECESSARY. WE CAN ONLY NOTE AGAIN THAT BANGKOK PRESS REPORTING ON BORDER INCIDENTS AND OTHER SECURITY RELATED EVENTS IN NORTHEAST SHOULD ALWAYS BE READ WITH CAUTION.M FINNEY
UNQTE
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO03095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770062-0856
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770260/aaaacazj.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History: Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:09 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:08 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ea3acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 2955
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3373493
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI/LAO BORDER RELATIONS AT NONG KHAI
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, TH, LA
To: STATE HONG KONG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ea3acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009